

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SIG-01 MMO-01 /059 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:SFPATRICK:HMN
APPROVED BY AF:RMMOOSE
S/S-DANDERSON
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S/P:MISS CASEY
NSC: MRS. DODSON (SUBS)
-----007478 111024Z /21
R 101015Z DEC 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

S E C R E T STATE 295545

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:NI

SUBJECT:US GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN NIGERIA

1. THIS TELEGRAM TRANSMITS A STATEMENT OF US FOREIGN POLICY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN NIGERIA. A SEPARATE MESSAGE WILL PROVIDE EXPLANATORY INFORMATION ON THE PURPOSE, IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW OF THESE STATEMENTS.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

I. A CLOSE AND COOPERATE BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.
--CULTIVATE EFFECTIVE CONTACTS AND WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH AS MANY MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL AS FEASIBLE, AND WITH KEY FEDERAL MINISTRY OFFICIALS.

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--ENCOURAGE HIGH-LEVEL AMERICAN OFFICIALS TO VISIT NIGERIA AND DISCUSS WITH THE GOVERNMENT IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ISSUES.

--CONSULT WITH THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT ON OUR POLICY TOWARDS AFRICA GENERALLY, PARTICULARLY OUR INITIATIVES TOWARD

SOUTHERN AFRICA. NIGERIAN VIEWS SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND IN THE FORMULATION OF MAJOR AFRICAN POLICY DECISIONS.

--INCREASE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE WORKINGS OF THE RULING SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL.

--WHILE SEEKING CLOSER RELATIONS WITH NIGERIA, RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT ITS DESIRE TO REMAIN TRULY NON-ALIGNED.

--RECOGNIZE THAT OUR RELATIONS WITH NIGERIA WILL DEPEND AS MUCH OR MORE ON WHETHER WE ARE HELPFUL IN SOLVING THE SOUTHERN AFRICA PROBLEMS THAN ON ANY BILATERAL INITIATIVES.

-- FOCUS ANALYTICAL REPORTING ON INTRA-AFRICAN POLITICAL-ECONOMIC TIES OF HOST GOVERNMENT AS THEY RELATE TO US INTERESTS.

-- ENCOURAGE CLOSER POLITICO-MILITARY TIES, MILITARY PROFESSIONALISM AND MANAGEMENT THROUGH THE CONTINUED SALE UNDER FMS OF US MILITARY TRAINING FOR THE NIGERIAN ARMED FORCES.

II. EXPANDED TRADE AND INVESTMENT.

-- PROTECT US ACCESS TO NIGERIA'S PETROLEUM RESOURCES.
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-- SEEK A GREATER SHARE OF NIGERIA'S GROWING MARKET IN THE INTEREST OF REDUCING OUR LARGE BALANCE OF TRADE DEFICIT.

-- PROMOTE AND FACILITATE DIRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN US AND NIGERIAN BUSINESSMEN (E.G., LAGOS TRADE FAIR), AND WITH THE APPROPRIATE LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT IN THE SPHERES OF TRADE, INVESTMENT, AND FINANCE.

-- EXPLORE WITH THE NIGERIANS WAYS TO REDUCE OR ELIMINATE IMPEDIMENTS TO ADDITIONAL US INVESTMENT.

III. GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF AND SUPPORT FOR U.S. POLICIES

--EXPLAIN TO THE NIGERIANS OUR VIEWS ON MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, E.G., NIEO, LOS, ILLICIT PAYMENTS.

-- SEEK NIGERIAN SUPPORT OF OR AT LEAST LACK OF OPPOSITION TO US POSITIONS IN INTERNATIONAL FORA.

IV. GREATER REGIONAL COOPERATION

-- MONITOR NIGERIAN PARTICIPATION AND INFLUENCE IN

REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ESPECIALLY ECOWAS AND THE OAU.

-- SUPPORT NIGERIAN EFFORTS TO MEDIATE AFRICAN DISPUTES
(E.G., NIGERIA'S EFFORT TO MEDIATE THE ANGOLA/ZAIRE DIS-
PUTE).

V. PROGRESS TOWARD COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

--ENCOURAGE THE EXPANSION OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL
ACTIVITIES, ESPECIALLY THE NIGERIAN INITIATIVE TO MEET
THE COUNTRY'S MIDDLE-LEVEL MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS THROUGH
TECHNICAL TRAINING OF STUDENTS IN THE US.

--OFFER THE SERVICES OF USG AGENCIES, ON A REIMBURSABLE
BASIS, TO DESIGN, DIRECT, OR EXECUTE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

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VI. OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE.

-- EXPRESS FREQUENTLY APPROVAL OF THE STEPS BEING TAKEN
TO RETURN THE COUNTRY TO CIVILIAN RULE.

-- CONVINCE THE GOVERNMENT THAT THE ARBITRARY ARRESTS
OF AMERICAN CITIZENS SERVE NEITHER THEIR INTERESTS NOR
OURS; IMPROVE EMBASSY ACCESS IN SUCH SITUATIONS. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE295545
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SFPATRICK:HMN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770461-0197
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771269/aaaacglh.tel
Line Count: 143
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1fcdc206-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 280130
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IN NIGERIA
TAGS: PDIP, NI
To: LAGOS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1fcdc206-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009